REMARKS

This Amendment, filed in reply to the Office Action dated April 1, 2005, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8-24 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-6 and 8-24 remain pending in the application, with claims 1-6, 8, 10-11, 13-14, 16-17, 19-20 and 22-23 being allowed. Claim 24 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, due to an antecedent basis issue. A proposed correction is set forth in the attached Appendix. Applicant submits that the modification should be entered since it does not raise any issues in need of further consideration and would obviate an issue on appeal.

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Spaulding (previously of record). Claim 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Spaulding in view of Stokes (U.S.P. 5,627,950). Claims 15, 18 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Spaulding in view of Takizawa (U.S.P. 5,625,762). Applicant respectfully submits the following arguments in traversal of the prior art rejections.

Applicant's invention relates to an apparatus for mediating the color conversion between color spaces. Applicant's invention is able to provide an indicator of the overlapping of color conversion and reproduction between ranges and/or the distance (difference) between color values during conversions. Referring to an exemplary embodiment of Fig. 9, the present invention displays plotted points of a device-independent space (such as L*a*b*, for example). Points corresponding to the color reproduction range are shown represented by colors (e.g.

CMYK) associated with coordinates of the L*a*b* space. The invention thus provides an accurate view of the reproduction color profile between two color spaces.

Spaulding relates to color conversion between color spaces. Referring to Fig. 3, for example, a color of an input image element (such as sun 58) can be matched to a color patch on the right hand side of the display. This constrains the sun to be reproduced based on the color patch data, and any colors matching the sun will be similarly constrained. Col. 6, lines 11. Other elements may also be constrained to a particular color patch. During the conversion, qualitative color mapping strategies become applied for other (non-constrained) input color values. While Figs. 5A-5C are used to explain the nature of those conversion strategies, the matrices of these figures are not displayed for user modification. Rather, the modification is conducted relative to Fig. 3 as described above to suit the user's subjective purposes. Col. 5, lines 8-13.

Takizawa and Stokes each generally relate to color conversion using three-dimensional projection to a two-dimensional plane and using LUT conversions, respectively.

The Examiner continues to contend that Spaulding teaches each feature of claim 1. Applicant maintains that the rejection is not supported for at least the following reasons.

First, the Examiner's continued reliance on the descriptive Figs. 5A-5C as teaching the claimed image display section is not supportable. Claim 9 describes that the image display displays a color reproduction range in which there are plotted coordinate points on the second color space with coordinates within a range of a range determination device, and the first color space is partitioned as a lattice. A primary defect with the Examiner's rejection is that none of the Figs. 5A-5C is displayed. The mere fact that there is a user intervention during the color

conversion does not require the display of Figs. 5A-5C. These figures merely illustrate constrained (solid dot) points and non-constrained points (non-solid points) that occur in the color space. However, the user intervention is provided through a display that resembles Fig. 3, not Figs. 5A-5C.

Second, and relatedly, claim 1 describes that the lattice applies for the first color space. In other words, a first color space is partitioned as a lattice. In Spaulding, the description of the color conversion is provided relative to an input space (R,G,B) and an output space (C,M,Y,). See col. 5, lines 40-45. The designation of a color range occurs in the R,G,B space (e.g. input image 52) as the first color space. However, the lattice of Figs. 5A-5C are shown in the output space (second space). However, claim 1 describes the lattice as representing the first color space. Therefore, the lattice relationships illustrated by Figs. 5A-5C and relied upon the Examiner correspond to a different relation than that described by claim 9. The Examiner cannot read Spaulding in a manner consistent to include the designation of the range in the first color space, and also includes the display lattice requirement in the first color space while still maintaining other features of the claim. Therefore, claim 9 is patentable for this additional reason.

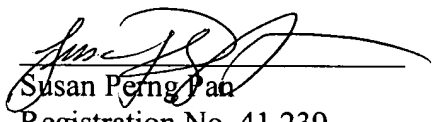
With regard to claims 12, 15, 18, 21, and 24, Applicant submits that these claims are patentable based on their dependency. None of the secondary references make up for the above deficiency of Spaulding.

Because the Examiner has not applied a prior art rejection to claim 24, claim 24 should also be deemed allowable in view of the informality correction.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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